

Joseph V. Maranto  
8 Graveswood Court  
Baltimore, MD 21234-1451

January 14, 2002

**BY FAX 1-202-307-1454**

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

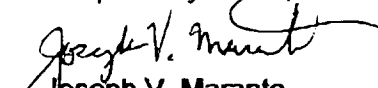
I am writing to ask that you give your immediate approval to the agreement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I believe this settlement is fair and equitable for the country and for business alike. Microsoft has done as much for the computer trade and its users as Goodyear has done for auto production. Microsoft is the wheels and fuel that make computers work.

With all due respect, I believe the antitrust suit brought against Microsoft was unnecessary and unfounded. Personally, I use Microsoft Windows out of choice because Microsoft's software programs are the best on the market.

It is my understanding that Microsoft has agreed in the settlement to assist the computer industry by opening up its intellectual property rights to its Windows internal interfaces, and license its property on a non-discriminatory basis. This is bound to stimulate the economy and do great things for the entire industry.

In conclusion, I am asking you to allow Microsoft to get back to business without this cloud and legal case as a major distraction to its daily business of developing the best software in the world.

Respectfully Yours,

  
Joseph V. Maranto  
VP Cignal Mortgage Corp